

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1 and 2 were amended to include the legend
--PRIOR ART--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8, and amended claims 2 and 6 are in this application.

The drawings were objected to. In explaining this objection, the Examiner stated that "figures 1-2 should be designated by a legend such as -Prior Art--." Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended herein so as to include the legend "PRIOR ART." Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Melas (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,105) in view of Tamburelli (U.S. Patent 4,288,872).

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled herein. The applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation applications directed to either one or both of these canceled claims. Further, the applicants submit that such cancellation herein of claims 1 and 5 is not to be construed as an admission that either one or both of such claims are unpatentable over the applied combination of Melas and Tamburelli.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 6 have been respectively rewritten herein in independent form so as to include limitations of independent claims 1 and 4. Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 2; and claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 6-8 as submitted herein are allowable.

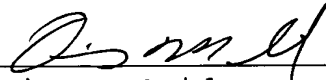
As it is believed that all of the claims in the present application are allowable, an early official notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Dennis M. Smid

Registration No.: 34,930

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants